

Editorial

Birthdays are noteworthy events. The centennial of the Hawaiian Historical Society will occur in six short years. This year, 1986, is another milestone for the Society, for it is the 20th anniversary of the *Hawaiian Journal of History*. In a time when journals have decreased drastically in number (every year in the last decade has seen the passing of many fine American periodicals), the Society can report that its journal is flourishing.

Many of our readers will remember the first issue in 1967. Its sepia-toned cover, an etching of Hanapepe Valley on Kaua'i in 1840, introduced an 89-page edition to the public. Richard A. Greer, named the first editor by HHS, established the *Journal's* distinctive personality: original research, sound scholarship, and liveliness. HHS also implemented an editorial board, whose members offered various areas of expertise, and a "referee" system to further ensure quality. Over the years the *Journal's* editors and boards have included many dedicated people, such as Agnes Conrad, former State Archivist; Gavan Daws, author and historian; Robert Sparks, University of Hawai'i Press Director; O. A. "Ozzie" Bushnell, noted novelist; and two from the University of Hawai'i who are still serving, Frances Jackson, librarian, and Philip "Fritz" Rehbock, Associate Professor of History and General Science.

Articles chosen for publication from the beginning to the present reflect a wide subject range. Readers will recall, to name just a few, Peter Morse's "The Lahainaluna Money Forgeries," Judith Gething (Hughes') "Women and the Law," insights into early Chinese settlement by Peggy Kai, Wai-Jane Char, and Clarence E. Glick, and "That Old-Time Portuguese Bread," by Manuel G. Jardine. There was also that fine piece of diagnostic detective work by David A. Ward on 19th Century merchant Stephen Reynolds' "Old Complaint." Ward uncovered that Reynolds, judged in his day "a lunatic of unsound mind" and the victim of a hereditary mental

weakness—his symptoms were loss of appetite, headaches and fatigue, cramping, and partial muscle paralysis—was, in fact, the victim of lead poisoning, the result of his consuming water from a lead-lined cask. Robert Schmitt's historical "firsts" began appearing, as is only appropriate, in the first issue, from mortality rates, religion, movies, and voter patterns, to eye and dental care, and, in this issue, early Island bridges.

Every group in our Island chain and beyond has been encouraged to contribute to our shared history. Native Hawaiian history has been presented by, for example, Esther Mookini, John Renken Kaha'i Topolinski, Jane Silverman, and Marjorie Sinclair. Articles have appeared, too, on the Puerto Ricans and Spanish, Russians and Greeks, Japanese and Koreans, as well as on the Marquesas, Samoa, Tahiti, Fiji, and other Polynesian and Pacific areas.

Not just the printed word, but many excellent illustrations of paintings, drawings, photographs, maps, and tables have appeared on our covers and in our pages. Our Hong Kong printer produces the *Journal* by a monotype, hot-lead, letter-press technology which is capable of high quality reproduction of archival material, such as the portraits of 19th Century world figures (Napoleon II, Tsar Alexander II, Emperors Frederick Wilhem III and IV of Prussia, and others) accompanying Rhoda E. A. Hackler's article on "Iolani Palace Portraits."

Among its publications, HHS has also sponsored the *Index to the Hawaiian Journal of History 1967-1976* (volumes 1-10). Compiled by HMCS Librarian Lela Goodell, the *Index* enables readers and researchers to quickly locate sources by author, title, or subject. The Society plans to sponsor the publication of a second index, for 1977-1986 (volumes 11-20).

While those who produce the *Journal* sometimes might wish for larger circulation, occasionally we are pleasantly surprised by the public's response. The 1985 article "When Halley's Comet Came," by M. Winslow Chapman, and the accompanying photograph of the 1910 comet streaking across Hawaiian skies, were featured in both local daily newspapers. As a result, HHS Librarian Barbara Dunn received phone calls, visits, and letters from comet buffs who shared memories and vintage postcards of the event.

With this, the 20th issue, we hope to continue to interest and entertain our readers. Again, original findings have surfaced, always an exciting possibility in Hawaiian history. We call your attention to Rhoda Hackler's discovery in the Royal Archives in England of

Kamehameha I's letter to George III. Dale E. Hall has established that the Honolulu Symphony Society originated in 1902. Alexander Spoehr's research in the Hudson's Bay Company archives is complemented by Canadian Richard MacAllan's fresh view of the events of 1840-1843 involving the mission for Hawaiian independence. Charles S. Bouslog presents charming nostalgia on the Mānoa Trolley and its most illustrious conductor, Jens Ostergaard.

After a 15-year hiatus, and in response to readers' requests, the *Journal* again offers a book review section of some of the many publications on Hawai'i and the Pacific worthy of serious discussion. We will continue, of course, our popular yearly "Hawaiiiana" bibliography for as long as Yasuto Kaihara wishes to make this outstanding contribution.

We invite HHS members and *Journal* readers to join us in looking forward to the next 20 years.

